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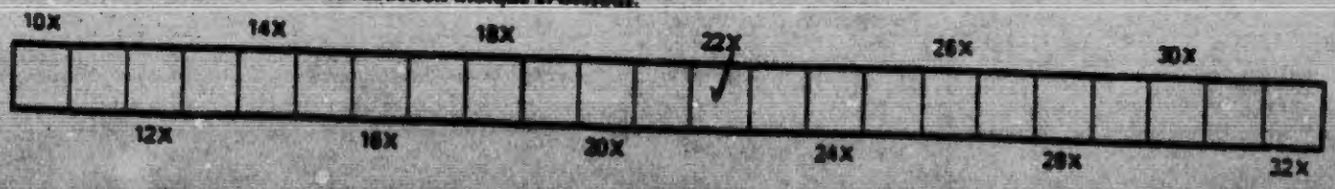

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Circular No. 2
January, 1913

THE CANADIAN PEACE CENTENARY ASSOCIATION

The Secretary has the honour of laying before the members of the Association the subjoined statement of suggestions which have been made as to methods of commemorating the Centenary of 1914.

The plan followed is to give, first, an analysis and classification of the several suggestions; secondly, an abstract of them, the names of those putting them forward being arranged in alphabetical order; thirdly, extracts from several letters which have been received which present certain aspects of the movement which appear to merit attention.

In addition to the suggestions which are here set forth, the Secretary has received a large number of letters expressing cordial approval of the object of the Association and promising support and assistance, but putting forward no specific proposals.

The suggestions which have been received fall under the following headings:—

1. Proposals as to methods of organising the General Committee and carrying on its work.

2. Proposals for the actual commemoration ceremonies.

3. Proposals for physical monuments designed to remind posterity of the anniversary.

4. Proposals for the creation of institutions, organizations, movements, etc., which should carry on the work of promoting goodwill between the British Empire and the United States.

5. Proposals which go beyond the purpose for which this Association has been formed.

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I.—Methods of Organizing

1. Several correspondents, more especially from the Maritime Provinces, have suggested the formation of Local or Provincial Sub-Committees of the General Committee, for the purpose of organising and directing the movement locally (Mr. Justice Riddell, D.Litt.; Rev. John Forrest, D.D.; R. V. Harris, Esq.)

2. Mr. Arthur Barner of Red Deer proposes the carrying on of an advertising campaign, suggesting the wide use by persons sympathetic to the movement of letter-paper, envelopes, etc., with appropriate mottoes.

II.—The Commemoration Ceremonies

With regard to the ceremonies to be observed on the Anniversary itself, the following suggestions have been made:—

1. Services in the churches, with special sermons and other methods of marking the religious aspect of the occasion (Rev. John Forrest, D.D.; Rev. C. Jost, D.D.; Chief Justice R. M. Meredith; J. W. McKee, Esq.)

2. Exchange of expressions of good-will by the Governments and Legislatures of the several countries (Chief Justice R. M. Meredith).

3. Five minutes of silence and cessation of labour all over Great Britain, Canada and the United States (W. Greenwood Brown, Esq.)

4. A large public gathering, or gatherings of an international character (Rev. John Mackay, D.D.; Mr. Justice Sutherland; Rev. R. I. Warner, D.D.).

5. A mass meeting in each capital (W. Greenwood Brown, Esq.).

6. Public meetings in local centres, including gatherings of university students and pupils in schools. Several speakers suggest that British speakers address American meetings and American speakers address British meetings (W. Greenwood Brown, Esq.; Rev. John Forrest, D.D.; J. W. McKee, Esq.; Arthur Roberts, Esq.; Professor Skelton; Professor Tufts).

7. Special ceremonies in connection with the commencement and the completion of permanent memorials (H. J. Bowman, Esq., C.E.).

8. To bring to Canada for the commemoration ceremonies representatives of, and troops belonging to, the other Dominions and the Colonies and Protectorates of the British Empire (J. W. Hamilton, Esq.).

9. Municipal corporations to telegraph peace messages to the Federal Government of the other country (W. Greenwood Brown, Esq.).

III.—Permanent Memorials

With regard to the physical memorials proposed the following suggestions have been received:—

1. The erection of two monuments, one on Canadian, the other on American soil. (Herbert J. Bowman, Esq., C.E.).

2. A memorial bridge at Niagara Falls, the work to be done under a Joint Commission. (W. Greenwood Brown, Esq.).

3. A memorial bridge between Buffalo and Fort Erie. (J. J. Foster, Esq.; W. M. German, Esq., K.C., M.P.)

4. Permanent memorials at the border. (Professor Skelton; Frank Yeigh, Esq.).

5. Memorial brass tablets, erected in provincial and municipal buildings, colleges, schools, points of international contact, etc. (W. Greenwood Brown, Esq.; Arthur Roberts, Esq.; Rev. R. I. Warner, D.D.).

6. Beautification of the Detroit River waterway. (O. E. Fleming, Esq., K.C.).

7. A suitable statue on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. (Arthur Roberts, Esq.).

8. A statue to David Thompson, the surveyor who determined the boundary line prescribed by the Treaty of Ghent. (J. W. Tyrrell Esq., F.R.S.C).

9. Preservation and repair of battlefields, forts and earthworks connected with the war. (Frank Yeigh, Esq.).

10. Cities and towns contemplating decorative schemes to link them to this anniversary. (John Dougall, Esq.).

11. The use of a commemorative name for streets, squares, etc. (John Dougall, Esq.).

12. The issue of a special design of postage stamp. (J. W. Hamilton, Esq.; J. W. McKee, Esq).

13. The striking of a Peace Medal or Medals. (J. W. Hamilton, Esq.; R. W. McLachlan, Esq.).

14. The issue of coinage of a special design. (J. W. Hamilton, Esq.).

15. Mark the graves of American soldiers killed in Canada in 1812–14. (H. M. Price, Esq.).

IV.—Educational Memorials

Many suggestions have regard to means for fostering a sentiment in favour of the continuance of peaceful relations. Among these are:—

1. A celebration on the first anniversary of the centenary. (Rev. John Mackay, D.D.).

2. A memorial Peace Sunday, to be observed permanently. (W. Greenwood Brown, Esq.).

3. An annual Anglo-Saxon holiday. (J. W. Hamilton, Esq.).

4. The revision of school text-books. (W. Greenwood Brown, Esq.; Alexander Johnson, Esq., LL.D.; William Robins, Esq.).

5. The endowment of a series of popular lectures designed to forward that purpose. (Rev. John Mackay, D.D.).

6. The institution of prises for essays, orations and compositions by university students and school pupils on international relations. (President T. W. Powell; Professor J. F. Tufts).

7. The endowment of lectureships, professorships, etc., on the relations of the British Empire and the United States. (William Robins, Esq.; Professor G. M. Wrong).

8. Take measures to suggest the withdrawal of American armed vessels from the Great Lakes. (Captain A. T. Wilgress),

9. The establishment of an institution to promote scientific research. (A. J. Bender, Esq., K.C.).

V.—Suggestions of a Wider Scope

Several gentlemen have forwarded suggestions which fall outside the object which the Association has prescribed for itself. Among these may be noted an expression in a general way of a desire for World Peace by Hon. E. H. Bronson; a remark by Chief Justice Harvey that the commemoration might be widened in scope so as to include countries other than the British Empire and the United States; a proposal of a World's Peace Postage Stamp by J. W. Hamilton, Esq.; one of a World's Peace Day, by the same gentleman; a suggestion by W. D. Lighthall, Esq., that a Canadian Peace and Arbitration Society be formed; expressions of desire that France be included in the commemoration by W. D. Lighthall, Esq., and the Rev. F. G. Scott.

It also is proper to observe in this connection that some correspondents, while sympathetic and helpful, utter words of caution. For example, Chief Justice Meredith counsels: "Avoidance of that present day plague—hysteria. Prevention of personal posings—another of such plagues; both very prevalent in this country." Lieut. Col. William Wood expresses apprehension lest the prevailing misconceptions as to the nature and circumstances of the war of 1812 vitiate the celebration and rob it of value. Dr. A. Ochs of Preston, Ont., expresses the opinion that the national attitude should be one

of some caution. All of these gentlemen, it is to be observed, promise their assistance in the movement.

The following is a list of gentlemen who have been good enough to offer suggestions and an abstract of their proposals:—

A. J. Bender, Esq., K.C., Montmagny, Que.

The establishment of an institution to provide scientific research.

Herbert J. Bowman, Esq., C.E., Berlin, Ont.

"I have always thought that some monument should be erected at Niagara Falls to commemorate the Century of Peace. Perhaps there should be a monument erected by us on Canadian soil and another across the river erected by the people of the United States. Digging the first sod would of course be done by the Governor General and the President respectively, and when the memorials are completed their successors would unveil them."

W. Greenwood Brown, Esq., Toronto.

1. Five minutes of simultaneous silence over Canada, Great Britain and United States.

2. Encourage every municipal corporation of the one country to send by post or telegraph a peace message to the Federal Government of the other.

3. A Mass Meeting in each capital and in other cities, especially along the border.

4. A bridge at Niagara Falls, with appropriate architecture and inscriptions, the work to be done under a Joint Commission.

5. Brass tablets to be placed in all municipal buildings, including the higher grade of schools, with an inscription.

6. The two Governments (American and Canadian) to select "a Joint Commission in sympathy with peace and a proper understanding as conducive thereto, to produce a short honest history of the United States and Canada in relation to England and each other, tracing the evolution of government, sympathetically written, but void of vain glorification." This to be authorized as a text-book.

7. A memorial Peace Sunday, to be fixed by statute as a Permanent Peace Sunday.

Hon. E. H. Bronson, Ottawa.

An expression of a desire for world peace.

A. Barner, Esq., Indian Industrial School, Red Deer, Alberta.

For the purposes of disseminating news of the movement, of promoting the spirit of the commemoration, and of rendering it self supporting:—The production of suitable letter-paper,

envelopes and post cards, stamped "Centenary of Peace among English-speaking Peoples, 17th February, 1815."

John Dougall, Esq., The Witness, Montreal.

1. All cities and towns vaguely contemplating decoration should use this opportunity to bring some such work to fulfilment as a local monument of the occasion.
2. The use of a commemorative name for streets, squares, etc.

Rev. John Forrest, D.D., Halifax.

1. A public holiday on the day of celebration.
2. A united celebration in some central place.
3. Meetings in all local centres.
4. Special services in churches.
5. Meetings of persons interested in the several Provinces to discuss suggestions.

O. E. Fleming, Esq., K.C., Windsor, Ont.

Beautifying of the international waterways at Windsor and Detroit.

J. J. Foster, Esq., Fort Erie, Ont.

A Peace Memorial Bridge between Fort Erie and Buffalo.

W. M. German, Esq., K.C., M.P., Welland, Ont.

A Bridge connecting Fort Erie and Buffalo.

Chief Justice Horace Harvey, Edmonton, Alta.

Widen the scope of the proposed celebration so as to take in other countries with which there seems a greater possibility of war than between Great Britain and the United States.

R. V. Harris, Esq., Halifax.

That members of the General Committee form Provincial Committees.

J. W. Hamilton, Esq., St. Paul, Minn.

1. The issue of a special postage stamp for the Centenary year.
2. To develop out of this a World's Peace Stamp.
3. A series of Peace Medals in bronze, aluminium and silver.
4. A special issue of coinage.
5. Bring to Canada for the celebration representatives of Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Uganda, Nigeria, the West Indies, etc.
6. Bring small bodies of troops from those parts of the Empire.
7. An Annual Anglo-Saxon holiday and a World's Peace Day.

Prof. Alexander Johnson, LL.D., McGill University, Montreal.

1. Remodel the teaching of history in the schools. The General Committee to encourage the publication and use of school books which shall touch as lightly as possible, and with expressions of regret, on past wars, while recounting with pride the achievements of both nations in discovery, invention and the arts of peace.

Rev. C. Jost, D.D., Bridgetown, N.S.

Keep the religious side prominent.

W. D. Lighthall, Montreal.

1. The formation of a larger body to be called the Canadian Peace and Arbitration Society.
2. Include France in the celebration.

Chief Justice R. M. Meredith, Toronto.

1. Exchange of cordial expressions of good-will.
2. Special church services.

Rev. John Mackay, D.D., Vancouver.

1. Hold some large public gathering of an international character.
2. Endow a series of lectures to be given annually, in British territory by American and in the United States by British lecturers, to interpret the ideals and purposes of either people to the other. In Canada use the machinery provided by the Canadian Clubs.
3. If possible have these delivered by first rank men, in a number of places, on the anniversary of the first celebration.

R. W. McLachlan, Esq. Montreal.

Strike a commemoration medal. Details to be entrusted to a committee of the Antiquarian and Numismatic Society of Montreal.

J. W. McKee, Esq., Sherbrooke.

1. A special issue of postage stamps in the several countries concerned.
2. A holiday in schools and colleges, the pupils to be addressed by prominent speakers suitable to the occasion, drawing their attention to the advantages to be derived from Peace.
3. Religious exercises, sermons, etc.

H. M. Price, Esq., Quebec.

Mark the graves of American soliders killed in Canada in 1812-14.

President T. W. Powell, D.D., King's College, Windsor, N.S.

1. Interest the Professors of History and their classes in the universities by making "the relations of the English-speak-

ing peoples during the last century" the subject for prize competitions in essay writing and oratory.

2. Carry this movement into the public and high schools, giving prizes for compositions, speeches and essays on the subject.

Arthur Roberts, Esq., Bridgewater, N.S.

1. Proclaim a public holiday and hold local celebrations, as on the occasions of the Diamond Jubilee, Coronation, etc.

2. Erect statuary on the Parliament Grounds in Ottawa, and put brass tablets in the halls of Provincial parliamentary buildings.

Mr. Justice B. Russell, Halifax.

Organise a local committee in Halifax.

William Robins, Esq., Walkerville.

Some well-formed scheme of mutual education.

Mr. Justice R. F. Sutherland, Toronto.

A joint celebration on the banks of the Detroit river: say in Belle Isle Park.

Rev. F. G. Scott, Quebec.

Include France in the celebration.

Professor O. D. Skelton, Queen's University, Kingston.

1. A permanent memorial at the border.

2. An anniversary celebration—public holiday, exchange of speakers, etc.

Professor J. F. Tufts, Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S.

"The celebration of the event will at least stimulate our Canadian people in the study of their own history. . . . . One note that should run through the exercises should be to quicken our national spirit. While great efforts should be centred at certain points, the local platform, pulpit and teacher's desk should not be forgotten."

J. B. Tyrrell, Esq., M. Inst. M.M., F.R.S.C., F.G.S. Toronto.

"Raise a statue to David Thompson, the man who surveyed the boundary line between the United States and Canada under the Treaty of Ghent."

Lt. Col. William Wood, Quebec.

Urges a better knowledge of the history of the War of 1812.

Rev. R. I. Warner, D.D., Alma College, St. Thomas, Ont.

1. A series of great international rallies in frontier centres of importance.

2. Erection of a series of tablets suitably inscribed in schools, churches and points of international contact.

Captain A. T. Wilgress, Brockville, Ont.

The removal by the United States of their armed vessels on the Great Lakes.

Professor George M. Wrong, Toronto University, Toronto.

The endowment of lectureships or professorships, designed to increase mutual knowledge and acquaintance: *e.g.*, the comparative study of federal institutions in Canada as compared with the United States.

Frank Yeigh, Esq., Toronto.

1. An international memorial of some kind.
2. Preserve from destruction and put in repair some of the battlefields, forts and earthworks connected with the War of 1812.

Extracts from Letters

William Robins, Esq., of Windsor, Ontario, has addressed to the Secretary a letter from which the following extracts are taken:—

"During my entire manhood I have been deeply impressed with the vital importance to both countries and the world at large of thoroughly cordial relations between the United States and Great Britain. I at one time lived in the Republic, and my business necessitated extensive and almost constant travel therein, and brought me into contact with mercantile and financial men and lawyers of the better class. Those conditions continued after I again took up my domicile in Canada; and since I came to this border, more than twenty-four years ago, I have been somewhat closely in touch with things American, and constantly meeting people from every section of the States.

"Not only have I long read with special interest much that has been said and written on the other side about our international relations, but they have very often been the topic of discussion with my intimate American friends and with these casual acquaintances.

"During the South African war, I had the temerity to write a pamphlet entitled "The Truth about the Transvaal," which had a very considerable circulation in the States. The then British Ambassador at Washington was good enough to pronounce it the best account of the dispute he had seen, and he sent several times for a number of copies and brought it to the attention of the home Government. This little book brought me a multitude of letters from residents of the Republic—American as well as British born—and, I think, gave me a pretty reliable idea of the prevailing sentiment among Americans toward the Mother Country."

Mr. Robins then states his conviction that the American attitude to Great Britain is marked by a certain adverse predisposition, and continues:—

"This serious underlying antipathy I attribute entirely to the almost universal misunderstanding of facts, begun with false teaching of history in the schools, and sedulously cultivated by the anti-British foreign element.

"The principal misconceptions I would set down as follows:

"A. That the revolt of the colonists was against deliberate and exceptional tyranny; not that they were fully as well situated politically as the English people at home.

"B. It does not seem to be generally known that the colonists were as far from unanimous for rebellion as the people of England were for coercion.

"C. The circumstances of the war of 1812 are not understood. It is commonly believed that the declaration of war came from our side. . . .

"My firm conviction is that there can be no friendship of any permanent value between the two countries while these misconceptions are general; and I take it is vastly more important now to insure the continuance of peace than merely to record the peace which is past. Therefore, my view is that, however appropriate or desirable may be some tangible memorial, nothing of that nature could compare in real benefit to both peoples with some well-formed scheme of mutual education. What form that should take, I am not at present prepared to suggest: but it is what I have thought of for a long time, and especially since the centenary movement was mooted. I am persuaded that the removal of the embittering misconceptions of our neighbours is well worth attempting, and I see no reason to regard it as too formidable a task for the Associations of the United States, England and Canada if they should combine on it."

Professor G. M. Wrong has made the following contribution to the subject:—

"Speaking generally I should deprecate doing anything that was merely monumental or decorative in character. Out of this happy anniversary might possibly come some educative force. Might it not be possible to endow professorships or lectureships that would result in a continuous, sane and enlightened treatment of the whole question of war and peace? I should include in this not merely the defence of peace but also that of war. If, through such an endowment, Oxford had in one year a course of lectures on either war or peace, to be published later in a book, if in the next year Harvard had a similar course and in the next McGill or Toronto, you would have in the next

ten years a considerable literature which, if well written, would undoubtedly affect the public mind. I do not mean a propaganda against war, I mean a continuous and scholarly discussion of the whole question of war and peace.

"Of course if the three Governments concerned aid the movement this suggestion would be but a small part of what might be effected. Is it too much to hope that out of the movement might come so permanent a *rapprochement* between Great Britain and the United States that they would stand together to discourage the desolating increase of armaments and by their co-operation to make it bad politics to continue it? Such an aspect of the work would require very careful handling, of course.

"Such an Association might also have some influence in promoting the study of the development of political institutions in the countries concerned. We need very much just now a comparative study, for instance, of federal institutions in Canada as compared with the United States. A fuller understanding of the workings of Canadian federation might have a considerable influence in moulding changes which I believe are imminent in the United States. The Canadian West, in turn, is likely to be profoundly influenced by the political thought of the United States. Great Britain, too, has now a vital interest in federation."

Finally A. J. Bender, Esq., K.C. of Montmagny, writes as follows:—

"Le meilleur moyen ne serait pas le plus bruyant, ou le plus éclatant, mais le plus intelligent et le plus utile. La célébration la plus convenable de ce fait unique dans l'histoire du monde de deux grandes nations, qui ont pu trouver moyen de régler à l'amiable tous leurs différends pendant une aussi longue période et ont pu, pendant ce temps, utiliser toutes leurs richesses et leurs énergies pour l'avancement et la prospérité de chacune d'elles, serait de fonder un institut propre à faire bénificier tout le monde des fruits de son travail.

"Quelles sont les institutions les plus utiles à tous de nos jours? On peut dire que l'Institut Pasteur et l'Institut Rockfeller ont en bien peu de temps jeté une vive lumière sur la nature des maladies qui nous affligent. Un grand nombre de ces maladies, qui répandaient la terreur et faisaient, de peuples entiers, des victimes sans défense, sont maintenant contrôlées. La rage, la peste, le choléra, la diphtérie, la fièvre jaune, les fièvres paludéennes sont du nombre, et la voie est ouverte pour faire disparaître les autres.

"Si on procédait de la même manière à d'autres études non moins intéressantes, et nécessaires, on devrait établir un immense institut international pour l'étude des sciences na-

turelles, au point de vue théorique seulement. Combien de phénomènes dans la nature sont bien constatés, mais absolument inexpliqués, pour ne pas dire qu'il en est ainsi de tous? Les découvertes à venir, qui se feront grâce à une connaissance approfondie de tous les mystères qui nous environnent, ouvriront la porte toute grande aux savants industriels, et ils y trouveront des applications utiles et pratiques, résultat de ces recherches.

"La nature est un terrain minier dont on est absolument certain de la richesse immense. Avec du travail et de la persévérance, on ne peut faire autrement que de frapper de bonnes veines, de bons filons qui nous remplirons d'étonnement.

"Nous sommes tous les jours surpris par des découvertes extraordinaires dues à l'initiative privée. Il serait regrettable de ne pas profiter des circonstances qui se présentent pour organiser sur une grande échelle des études systématiques et suivies des phénomènes de la nature et sortir de l'ignorance où nous en sommes tous."

(*Translation*)

The best way would not be the most sensational or striking, but the most intelligent and useful. The most suitable celebration of the fact—unique in the history of the world—of two great nations having succeeded in settling their differences during so long a period in a friendly manner, while devoting all their resources and energies, each to its own separate advancement and prosperity, would be to found an institution from whose labours the whole world might derive benefit.

What, to-day, are the most widely-useful institutions? It may be said of the Pasteur Institute and the Rockfeller Institute that they have in a short space of time cast a strong light on the maladies that afflict the human race. Many of these, which once spread terror and swept off whole defenceless communities, are now under control. Rabies, the plague, cholera, diphtheria, yellow fever, malaria are of the number, and the way is open to conquer and banish the rest.

In order to take up other lines of investigation not less interesting and important, a vast international institute should be established for the study of the natural sciences from a purely theoretical standpoint. How many natural phenomena are perfectly known as facts, yet remain wholly unexplained! Is it not indeed the same with all? The discoveries of the future, springing from a deeper insight into the mysteries which surround us, will open a wide door to our industrial leaders, who will surely find useful and practical applications for the newly-established theoretical principles.

The whole of nature is, as it were, a mineral territory on whose unbounded riches we can count with perfect confidence. Given labour and perseverance, we cannot fail to strike bounteous veins and deposits that will fill us with amazement.

Daily are we astonished at the discoveries due to private initiative. It would be unfortunate if we failed to take advantage of the present opportunity for organizing on a great scale a systematic and continuous study of nature, and thus escaping from that ignorance of fundamental truths which is common to us all.